

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Trump falsely says Democrats inflated Puerto Rico death toll

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump today rejected the official conclusion that nearly 3,000 people died in Puerto Rico from last year's Hurricane Maria, arguing without evidence that the number was wrong and calling it a plot by Democrats to make him "look as bad as possible."

As Hurricane Florence approached the Carolinas, the president picked a fresh fight over the administration's response to the Category 4 storm that smashed into the U.S. territory last September. Trump visited the island in early October to assess the situation amid widespread criticism over the recovery efforts.

"When I left the Island, AFTER the storm had hit, they had anywhere from 6 to 18 deaths. As time went by it did not go up by much. Then, a long time later, they started to report really large numbers, like 3000," Trump tweeted.

He added: "This was done by the Democrats in order to make me look as bad as possible when I was successfully raising Billions of Dollars to help rebuild Puerto Rico."

Puerto Rico's governor last month raised Maria's official death toll from 64 to 2,975 after an independent study found that the number of people who succumbed in the sweltering aftermath had been severely undercounted. Previous reports from the Puerto Rican government said the number was closer to 1,400.

Trump's comments drew swift criticism from elected officials and residents of the island, where blackouts remain common, 60,000 homes still have makeshift roofs and 13 percent of municipalities lack stable phone or internet service.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello said in a Facebook post in Spanish, "the victims of Puerto Rico, and the people of Puerto Rico in general, do not deserve to be questioned about their pain."

'60 Minutes' chief Fager fired over policy violation

NEW YORK — CBS News on Wednesday fired "60 Minutes" top executive Jeff Fager, who has been under investigation following reports that he groped women at parties and tolerated an abusive workplace.

The network news president, David Rhodes, said Fager's firing was "not directly related" to the allegations against him, but came because he violated company policy. A CBS News reporter



Police and the National Guard direct traffic onto U.S. Highway 501 near Conway, S.C.

Tropical bands from Florence begin lashing the Carolinas

WILMINGTON, N.C. — The outer bands of wind and rain from a weakened but still lethal Hurricane Florence began lashing North Carolina today as the monster storm moved in for a prolonged and potentially catastrophic stay along the Southeast coast that could drench the homes of as many as 10 million people.

Florence's winds had dropped from a peak of 140 mph to 105 mph by midmorning, reducing the hurricane from a terrifying Category 4 to a 2. But forecasters warned that the widening storm — and its likelihood of lingering around the coast day after day — will bring seawater surging onto land and torrential downpours.

"It truly is really about the whole size of this storm," National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said. "The larger and the slower the storm is, the greater the threat and the impact — and we have that."

Florence was centered about 145 miles southeast of Wilmington, its forward movement slowed to 10 mph. Hurricane-force winds extended 80 miles from its center, and tropical-storm-force winds up to 195 miles.

Forecasters said Florence's eye could come ashore early Friday around the North Carolina-South Carolina line. Then it is likely to hover along the coast Saturday, pushing up to 13 feet of storm surge and unloading water on both states.

The forecast calls for as much as 40 inches of rain over seven days along the coast, with the deluge continuing even as the center of the storm pushes its way over the Appalachian Mountains.

working on a story about Fager revealed that he had sent her a text message urging her to "be careful."

Fager is the third major figure at CBS to lose his job in the past year over misconduct allegations, following news anchor Charlie Rose last November and CBS Corp. CEO Leslie Moonves on Sunday.

CBS News reporter Jericka Duncan said she received Fager's message after she started to

work on a story about him on Sunday, following the posting of a New Yorker story with fresh allegations that were denied by Fager.

"There are people who lost their jobs trying to harm me and if you pass on these damaging claims without your own reporting to back them up that will become a serious problem," Fager wrote, according to Duncan.

In two New Yorker articles, the latest posted on Saturday, some women described the "60

Minutes" culture as a boy's club that's rough on women. "I really felt like this was one of the most sexist places I've ever worked," Sarah Johansen, who worked as an intern in the 2000s and alleged Fager groped her, told the New Yorker.

"60 Minutes" is the most popular and powerful news broadcast on television, and Fager is only the second person to lead it during its 50 years of history. He was appointed in 2004 to succeed founding executive Don Hewitt.

Pope Francis accepts resignation of US bishop

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis accepted the resignation of a U.S. bishop today and authorized an investigation into allegations he sexually harassed adults, adding awkward drama to an audience with U.S. church leaders over the abuse and cover-up scandal roiling the Catholic Church.

The resignation of West Virginia Bishop Michael Bransfield was announced just as the four-member U.S. delegation was sitting down with Francis in his private study in the Apostolic Palace. Among the four was Bransfield's cousin, Monsignor Brian Bransfield, secretary-general of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Bransfield had been investigated for an alleged groping incident in 2007 and was implicated in court testimony in 2012 in an infamous Philadelphia priestly sex abuse case. He strongly denied ever abusing anyone and the diocese said it had disproved the claims. He continued with his ministry until he offered to retire, as required, when he turned 75 last week.

The Vatican said Francis appointed Baltimore Bishop William Lori to take over Bransfield's Wheeling-Charleston diocese temporarily.

The revelation was the latest twist in an incredible turn of events in the U.S. church that began with the June 20 announcement that one of the most prestigious U.S. cardinals, Theodore McCarrick, had been accused of groping a teenage altar boy in the 1970s.

Francis removed McCarrick as a cardinal in July after a U.S. church investigation found the allegation credible. After news broke of the investigation, several former seminarians and priests came forward to report that they, too, had been abused or harassed by McCarrick as adults.

The McCarrick affair — coupled with revelations in the Pennsylvania grand jury report detailing decades of abuse and cover-up in six dioceses — has fueled outrage among the rank-and-file faithful who had trusted church leaders to reform themselves after the abuse scandal first erupted in Boston in 2002.

Ban: 'We're a very small city, but everybody has an impact'

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At a work session Wednesday, the Astoria City Council was united in addressing the use of plastic bags in the city somehow, but was divided about how to best approach the issue. Councilors agreed the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association and the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce should work with Public Works Director Jeff Harrington and Mayor Arline LaMear to talk to businesses and gather more information about what a ban might entail before considering any policy changes.

"I've just become increasingly upset by plastic grocery bags," said LaMear, who asked the City Council to discuss a

potential ban. "Plastic grocery bags that are stuck in every chain-link fence, every bush, every tree."

But City Councilor Tom Brownson argued a county-wide ban would be more effective since the major generators of plastic bags — big box stores like Walmart, Dollar Tree, Home Depot and others — are located in Warrenton and would not be affected by a ban in Astoria. Kroger, the nation's largest chain of grocery stores, owns Fred Meyer and announced in August it would phase out single-use plastic bags by 2025.

In Astoria, Safeway would be the largest store impacted by a ban. Brownson worried that a ban that didn't include Safeway's competitors in Warrenton

would be "an unfair imposition."

City Councilor Bruce Jones asked if an outright ban was the most effective way to deal with plastic bags or if something like a fee would be better. David Reid, the chamber's executive director, echoed Jones and said he would like to see a collaborative approach with businesses.

While she was in favor of Astoria leading the charge on a plastic bag ban, City Councilor Cindy Price wondered if city staff had the capacity to take on another project given the amount of other large projects the council has asked them to prioritize.

"The capacity to take on new projects is slim," replied City Manager Brett Estes. "I'll tell you my capacity to take on new

projects is nil."

City staff will still be involved in meetings and discussions, along with the business organizations, but the chamber and downtown association's involvement lightens the city's workload, Estes said afterwards.

City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill agreed with Brownson that a countywide ban would be best. She also agreed with Price that city staff has a lot of projects to juggle. But, she countered, "Astoria should be a leader in doing everything that we can for the environment."

Nemlowill is the marketing director for the Astoria Co-op, a natural and organic food store downtown. The store provides paper bags for customers, but

donates the money the business would have spent on bags to charity if customers bring their own reusable bags.

Carl Peters, general manager for Recology Western Oregon, which handles garbage collection in Astoria, commended city councilors for looking at the issue. Recology employees encounter plastic, and plastic bags, in every beach and river cleanup they participate in, he said. In addition to posing a danger to the environment, single-use plastic grocery bags contaminate recycling and clog up machines at recycling centers.

In researching a possible ban, Harrington and other city staff looked at cities in the Pacific Northwest where plastic bags are already banned.



Bahamas Reef Environment Education Foundation. A plastic bag floats in a school of fish.

Harrington said they know plastic bags harm wildlife.

"Especially in the ocean where these bags seem to end up," he said. Given Astoria's proximity to both the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean, "a bag you see in the street is probably going to end up in the ocean."

"We're a very small city," he added, "but everybody has an impact."

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING												SEPTEMBER 13		
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune	Celebrity Family Feud		Match Game (SF) (N)		Take Two "One to the Heart" (SF) (N)	KATU News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel		
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Celebrity Family Feud		Match Game (SF) (N)		Take Two "One to the Heart" (SF) (N)	KOMO 4 News (N)	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel		
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	The Good Place	The Good Place	The Good Place	The Good Place	Law&O: SVU "Something Happened"	KING 5 News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show		
5	KOIN	(7) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight (N)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Big Brother (N)		S.W.A.T. "Hunted"	News (N)	(3:5) Colbert		
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Big Brother (N)		S.W.A.T. "Hunted"	KIRO News (N)	(3:5) Colbert		
7	KGW	(3) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition (N)	The Good Place	The Good Place	The Good Place	The Good Place	Law&O: SVU "Something Happened"	KGW News (N)	(3:5) Tonight Show		
8	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Supernatural "Unfinished Business"		The Originals		News (N)	Friends Pt. 1 of 2	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
9	KOPB	(10) Outside	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Viewer's Choice		Viewer's Choice		Viewer's Choice				
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	MasterChef "The Semi Final"		The Gifted "3 X 1"		10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV	
11	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Prime News (N)		Prime News (N)		Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game	The Game	
12	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	MasterChef "The Semi Final"		The Gifted "3 X 1"		Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons	
13	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Last O.G.	The Joker's Wild	Conan		
14	KZJQ	(22) Friends	Friends	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	
15	ESPN	(29) NCAA Football	Boston College at Wake Forest (L)	SportsCenter	The day's news in the world of sports. (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)		SportsCenter (N)		First Take	The hottest topics in sports are debated.			
16	ESPN2	(30) (5:00) Boxing Golden Boy (L)		Drone Racing League (N)		Drone Racing League (N)		Nación ESPN (N)		First Take	The hottest topics in sports are debated.			
17	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Double Dare	Double Dare	To Be Announced				Friends	(3:5) Friends	
18	DISN	(32) Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Stuck in Middle	Stuck in Middle	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	
19	FAM	(34) (5:00) ++ The Bodyguard '92, Susp		Costner, Gary Kemp, Whitney Houston.		++ National Treasure (2004, Adventure)	Diane Kruger, Justin Bartha, Nicolas Cage.					The 700 Club		
20	FMC	(35) (5:00) Sisters (2015, Comedy) Tina Fey.		(:20) Sisters (2015, Comedy) Amy Poehler, Ike Barinholtz, Tina Fey.				(:40) FXM Presents		Think Like a Man Too ('14) Terrence Jenkins, Regina Hall.		(:55) FXM Presents		
21	LIFE	(36) Grey's Anatomy "Judgment Day"		Grey's Anatomy "Seal Our Fate"		++ Enough (2002, Thriller) Bill Campbell, Juliette Lewis, Jennifer Lopez.				(:35) YOU "Pilot"		(:35) Killer Kids		
22	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Los Angeles Angels Site: Angel Stadium -- Anaheim, Calif. (L)						Post-game	Press Pass (N)	H.S. Football		
23	FS1	(39) (5:00) UFC UFC 220				MLB Whiparound (L)		CFB: Inland Slant	Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day.				Speak for Yourself	
24	SPIKE	(43) Mom	Mom	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	++ Wrath of the Titans (2011, Action) Liam Neeson, Rosamund Pike, Sam Worthington.					Movie	
25	COM	(44) (:15) The Office 1/2	(:50) The Office "Money" Pt. 2 of 2	(:25) The Office		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Daily Show (N)	The Office	
26	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Mountain Men "Block and Tackle"		Mountain Men "Edge of the Earth"		Mountain Men "Altitude" (N)		(:05) Pickers "Bubba Gump Picks"	(:05) Pickers "Dani D Leader of the Pick"			
27	A&E	(46) The First 48 "Snapshot"		The First 48 "A Man's Game"		The First 48 "M.I.A."		The First 48 "End of the Road" (N)		(:05) Nightwatch Nation "Ties That Bind" (N)	(:05) Nightwatch Nation			
28	TLC	(47) (5:00) 90 Day Fiancé "Trust a Try"		OutDaughtered		OutDaughtered		OutDaughtered		OutDaughtered				
29	DISC	(48) Naked and Afraid "Unhinged"		Naked and Afraid "Ashes to Ashes"		Naked and Afraid "Unhinged"		OutDaughtered		OutDaughtered				
30	NGEO	(49) Life Below Zero "The Harvest"		Life Below Zero "Sink or Swim"		Life Below Zero "Ticking Clock"		Life Below Zero "Last Minute Push"		Life Below Zero "End of Days"		Life Below Zero "Ticking Clock"		
31	NNT	(50) NCIS: New Orleans		NCIS: New Orleans "My City"		++ Godzilla (2014, Action) Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Bryan Cranston, Elizabeth Olsen.				++ Jack the Giant Slayer (13) Nicholas Hoult.				
32	AMC	(51) (5:25) ++ The Chronicles of Riddick '04, Sci-Fi) Judi Dench, Colm Feore, Vin Diesel.		+++ Men in Black (1997, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Vincent D'Onofrio, Will Smith.		+++ Men in Black II (2002, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Lara Flynn Boyle, Will Smith.				(:05) ++ Men in Black II (2002, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Lara Flynn Boyle, Will Smith.				
33	USA	(52) Law & Order: S.V.U. "Hate"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Spellbound"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Conversion"		Queen South "El Mundo" (SF) (N)		Shooter "Red Light" (SF) (N)		Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	
34	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Beat Bobby Play, Part 3" 3/4		Chopped "Beat Bobby Play, Finale" 4/4		Chopped "Lamb Slam"		Bite Club (N)		Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	Beat Bobby Play	
35	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
36	FX	(56) (4:30) 10 Cloverfield Lane		+++ X-Men: Apocalypse (2016, Action) Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy, Jennifer Lawrence.						Snowfall "Aftermath" (N)		Snowfall "Aftermath"		
37	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		
38	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		
39	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		Leno Garage "General Badassery" (N)		Jay Leno's Garage "The Motor City"		Jay Leno's Garage "Keys to Happiness"		Jay Leno's Garage "General Badassery"		Paid Program	Paid Program	
40	BRV	(63) Shahs of Sunset "A Date with Destiny"		Shahs "Javid Shah: Long Live the King"		Shahs of Sunset "Bridal Bath Wrath"		Shahs "Emeralds Aren't Forever" (N)		Watch What Happens Live		Watch What (N)	Shahs of Sunset	
41	TCM	(64) (5:00) Anna Lucasta ('59) Eartha Kitt.		++ A Warm December ('73, Drama) Esther Anderson, George Baker, Sidney Poitier.		+++ A Patch of Blue ('65, Drama) Elizabeth Hartman, Shelley Winters, Sidney Poitier.				One Potato, Two Potato	Barbara Barrie.			
42	SYFY	(65) (5:00) Annabelle ('14) Annabelle Wallis.		++ Anaconda (1997, Thriller) Jennifer Lopez, Ice Cube, Jon Voight.		++ National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007, Adventure) Jon Voight, Ed Harris, Nicolas Cage.							Movie	
43	RFD	(162) SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America "Live" "Syngenta"		Steve Lantvit		Rural Eve. News		G.A. Farm Monitor		SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library